

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1-14. (Canceled)
15. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~claim 1~~claims 26, exhibiting a transparency in the infrared.
16. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~claim 1~~claim 26, comprising at least 0.1% of crystallized volume with crystals with a size of less than or equal to 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .
17. (Original) The composition as claimed in claim 16, wherein the crystals have a mean size of less than or equal to 500 nm.
18. (Original) The composition as claimed in claim 16, wherein the crystals have a mean size of greater than or equal to 1 nm.
19. (Original) The composition as claimed in claim 16, wherein the crystals have a size varying from 10 to 300 nm.
- 20-22. (Canceled)
23. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a composition of vitroceraic type comprising the heat treatment of a vitreous composition as claimed in ~~claim 20~~claim 30 at a temperature and for a period of time sufficient to produce crystals with a size of less than 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .
24. (Canceled)
25. (Currently Amended) An infrared system operating in a wavelength range extending from 0.7 to 14  $\mu\text{m}$  and comprising an optical component, wherein the optical component has a composition of vitroceraic type as defined in ~~claim 1~~claim 26.

26. (Currently Amended) A composition of vitroceramic type comprising, in mol%:

Ge	5-40
Ga	<1
S + Se	40-85
Sb + As	4-40
MX	2-25
Ln	0-6
Adjuvant	0-30

in which:

- M represents at least one alkali metal chosen from Rb, Cs, Na, K and Zn,
- X represents at least one chlorine, bromine or iodine atom,
- Ln represents at least one rare earth metal, and
- Adjuvant represents at least one additive composed of at least one metal and/or at least one metal salt,

with the sum of the combination of the molar percentages of the components present in said composition being equal to 100,

wherein the composition is a quaternary mixture of germanium in a content varying from 15 to 30 mol%, of antimony in a content varying from 4 to 20 mol%, of selenium in a content varying from 50 to 70 mol% and of ~~cesium halide~~ CsX, in a content varying from 3 to 15 mol%.

27. (Currently Amended) A composition of vitroceramic type comprising, in mol%:

Ge	5-40
Ga	<1
S + Se	40-85
Sb + As	4-40
MX	2-25
Ln	0-6
Adjuvant	0-30

in which:

- M represents at least one alkali metal chosen from Rb, Cs, Na, K and Zn,
- X represents at least one chlorine, bromine or iodine atom,
- Ln represents at least one rare earth metal, and
- Adjuvant represents at least one additive composed of at least one metal and/or at least one metal salt,

with the sum of the combination of the molar percentages of the components present in said composition being equal to 100,

wherein the composition is a quaternary mixture of germanium in a content varying from 15 to 20 mol%, of antimony in a content varying from 10 to 15 mol%, of sulfur in a content varying from 45 to 65 mol% and of ~~cesium halide~~ CsX, in a content varying from 2 to 15 mol%.

28. (Currently Amended) A composition of vitroceraamic type comprising, in mol%:

Ge	5-40
Ga	<1
S + Se	40-85
Sb + As	4-40
MX	2-25
Ln	0-6
Adjuvant	0-30

in which:

- M represents at least one alkali metal chosen from Rb, Cs, Na, K and Zn,
- X represents at least one chlorine, bromine or iodine atom,
- Ln represents at least one rare earth metal, and
- Adjuvant represents at least one additive composed of at least one metal and/or at least one metal salt,

with the sum of the combination of the molar percentages of the components present in said composition being equal to 100,

wherein the composition is a five-component mixture of germanium in a content extending from 10 to 25 mol%, of antimony in a content extending from 10 to 25 mol%, of selenium in a content extending from 55 to 65 mol%, of ~~cesium halide~~ CsX, in a content extending from 2 to 5 mol% and of an adjuvant chosen from PbI<sub>2</sub>, CuI, Ag<sub>2</sub>Se and CdTe in a content extending from 1 to 7 mol%.

29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) A noncrystalline vitreous composition comprising, in mol%:

Ge	5-40
Ga	<1
S + Se	40-85
Sb + As	4-40
MX	2-25
Ln	0-6
Adjuvant	0-30

in which:

- M represents at least one alkali metal chosen from Rb, Cs, Na, K and Zn,
- X represents at least one chlorine, bromine or iodine atom,
- Ln represents at least one rare earth metal, and
- Adjuvant represents at least one additive composed of at least one metal and/or at least one metal salt,

with the sum of the combination of the molar percentages of the components present in said composition being equal to 100,

wherein the composition is a quaternary mixture of germanium in a content varying from 15 to 30 mol%, of antimony in a content varying from 4 to 20 mol%, of selenium in a content varying from 50 to 70 mol% and of ~~cesium halide~~ CsX, in a content varying from 3 to 15 mol%.

31. (Currently Amended) A noncrystalline vitreous composition comprising, in mol%:

Ge	5-40
Ga	<1
S + Se	40-85
Sb + As	4-40
MX	2-25
Ln	0-6
Adjuvant	0-30

in which:

- M represents at least one alkali metal chosen from Rb, Cs, Na, K and Zn,
- X represents at least one chlorine, bromine or iodine atom,
- Ln represents at least one rare earth metal, and
- Adjuvant represents at least one additive composed of at least one metal and/or at least one metal salt,

with the sum of the combination of the molar percentages of the components present in said composition being equal to 100,

wherein the composition is a five-component mixture of germanium in a content extending from 10 to 25 mol%, of antimony in a content extending from 10 to 25 mol%, of selenium in a content extending from 55 to 65 mol%, of ~~cesium halide~~ CsX, in a content extending from 2 to 5 mol% and of an adjuvant chosen from  $\text{PbI}_2$ ,  $\text{CuI}$ ,  $\text{Ag}_2\text{Se}$  and  $\text{CdTe}$  in a content extending from 1 to 7 mol%.

32. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 27, exhibiting a transparency in the infrared.

33. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 27, comprising at least 0.1% of crystallized volume with crystals with a size of less than or equal to 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .

34. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 33, wherein the crystals have a mean size of less than or equal to 500 nm.

35. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 33, wherein the crystals have a mean size of greater than or equal to 1 nm.

36. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 33, wherein the crystals have a size varying from 10 to 300 nm.

37. (New) An infrared system operating in a wavelength range extending from 0.7 to 14  $\mu\text{m}$  and comprising an optical component, wherein the optical component has a composition of vitroceraic type as defined in claim 27.

38. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 28, exhibiting a transparency in the infrared.

39. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 28, comprising at least 0.1% of crystallized volume with crystals with a size of less than or equal to 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .

40. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 39, wherein the crystals have a mean size of less than or equal to 500 nm.

41. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 39, wherein the crystals have a mean size of greater than or equal to 1 nm.

42. (New) The composition as claimed in claim 39, wherein the crystals have a size varying from 10 to 300 nm.

43. (New) An infrared system operating in a wavelength range extending from 0.7 to 14  $\mu\text{m}$  and comprising an optical component, wherein the optical component has a composition of vitroceraic type as defined in claim 28.

44. (New) A process for the preparation of a composition of vitroceramic type comprising the heat treatment of a vitreous composition as claimed in claim 31 at a temperature and for a period of time sufficient to produce crystals with a size of less than 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .